



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Health

JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN
Acting Chief Deputy

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.lapublichealth.org



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April 8, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **TRANS FAT REDUCTION AND NUTRITIONAL LABELING**

On January 30, 2007, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Burke, which 1) instructed the Director of Public Health to develop for Board review and approval within 45 days, a voluntary, incentive-based program for trans fat reduction in food sold in retail food facilities, 2) instructed the Director of Public Health to work with the CAO and County Counsel to develop contract language which will require operators of food facilities who prepare and serve food in County buildings to comply with limits on trans fats in servings, and 3) went on record in support of State legislation that would a) restrict the amount of trans fat in retail food facility food servings and b) promote the availability of calorie and nutritional labeling by retail food facilities on their menus and menu boards.

On March 16, May 8, June 21, July 27, September 14, 2007, and January 3, 2008 I provided you with status reports on this motion. This is an update on actions taken since the last report.

Voluntary Incentive-based Trans Fat Reduction Program

Los Angeles County's Artificial Trans Fat Reduction (ATFR) Program was launched on November 15, 2007. To date, twelve food facilities have been approved to display the decal. Three major chains are working with Environmental Health to be approved. The American Heart Association has volunteered to do an e-mail blast to its members, urging them to encourage restaurants they patronize to protect the heart health of their customers by applying to participate in the program.

An ATFR Program evaluation team has been formed to identify barriers to program participation. The team met on December 4, 2007 and February 25, 2008 and includes representatives from The Department of Public Health (DPH) programs of Environmental Health, Nutrition, and Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. The evaluation team drafted a survey that will be administered to restaurant owners by Environmental Health staff. The department plans to begin administering the survey in early spring after Institutional Review Board (IRB) clearance.

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County Food Service Contracts

Meetings took place on July 19, September 12, October 30, November 28, 2007, and January 31, 2008 between DPH, CEO, County Counsel and representatives of other departments that have food service contracts to review language for food service contracts at County facilities. As food service contracts are renewed, contractors will be required to participate in the ATFR Program. The Department of Health Services is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for dietary services and concession/public cafeterias at five DHS facilities. They will include the new language in the RFP and the resulting agreements to implement the Board mandate.

County Support for State Legislation

County-supported SB 120 (Padilla/Migden), which would have required restaurants with 15 or more food facilities in California to post calories on menu boards and other nutritional information on menus, passed both the Assembly and the Senate but was vetoed by the Governor. It has been reintroduced as SB 1420 (Padilla/Migden/DeSaulnier). AB 97 (Mendoza), which would require all foods containing artificial trans fats to have less than .5 grams of trans fat per serving, is expected to be reactivated by mid April 2008. The Department is working with the Chief Executive Office to identify and follow State bills which should be supported based on the Board's motion. The CEO will include updates on these bills in its periodic Sacramento legislative status memos to the Board.

I will provide you with another status report on this motion by September 30, 2008. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:js
PH: 612:005(8)

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors